

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for conducting a group call among communication devices based on presence information of the communication devices, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying presence information at a particular communication device, the particular communication device having access to a contact list that identifies members of the group call, the presence information including a presence status for each of the members of the group call;

detecting activation of the group call at the particular communication device;
and

establishing the group call among the communication devices based on the contact list of the particular communication device, wherein a communication link is established with each of the members of the group call.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating the contact list associated with the particular communication device before the step of displaying the presence information at the particular communication device, wherein the contact list identifies the members of the group call.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular communication device accesses the contact list from a database maintained by the particular communication device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular communication device accesses the contact list from a database maintained by a network infrastructure in wireless communication with the particular communication device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting activation of the group call includes the step of detecting an activation of a push-to-talk button at the particular communication device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of establishing the group call occurs while the push-to-talk button is still activated.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of indicating that the group call has been established.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of indicating that the group call has been established includes the step of signaling to the particular communication device to provide a voice message.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting a voice message at the particular communication device that is directed to the other members of the group call.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting a de-activation of the group call at the particular communication device.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of detecting a de-activation of the group call includes the step of detecting a release of a push-to-talk button at the particular communication device.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of terminating the group call among the communication devices.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of terminating the group call includes the step of disconnecting the communication link with each of the members of the group call.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular communication device includes an instant messaging application and the contact list is accessed by the instant messaging application.